

REMARKS

The specification has been reviewed, and clerical errors of the specification have been amended.

On page 2 of the Action, claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. On pages 3-6 of the Action, claims 1-4, 6 and 7 were rejected by the cited references. However, on page 7 of the Action, claim 5 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In view of the rejections and indication of allowance, claims 1 and 3 have been amended to include the subject matter of claim 5, which has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112. Claim 5 has been cancelled. Also, claims 2, 4, 6 and 7 have been editorially amended.

Therefore, claim 3 and claims 4, 6 and 7 depending from claim 3 are allowable, as stated in the Action. Claims 1 and 2 are also allowable, as explained below.

In claim 1, in addition to the basic structure as originally recited, it is defined that the water supply passage member is mounted to an outer periphery of the tank such that the water supply passage member can move toward and away from the screen.

In Serres et al., a pipe 50 for dilution intake, corresponding to the water supply passage member of the invention, passes through the tank and includes a water supply passage which is in communication with the opening facing the secondary chamber to supply water into the primary chamber. However, the pipe 50 is connected or fixed to the cavity C, and is not arranged such that the water supply passage member can move toward and away from the screen. The features now added into claim 1 are not disclosed by Serres et al.

In Simola, it is held in column 3, lines 5-7 that "The pulp is diluted at the bottom end of the screen zone 11 by liquid supplied

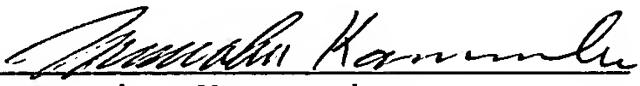
through the dilution water ring 24." In this respect, the dilution water ring 24 is fixed to the housing 1 and the screen drum 2. Simola does not have the structure such that the water supply passage member can move toward and away from the screen. The features in claim 1 is not disclosed by Simola.

In Clarke-Pounder, similarly, dilution pipes 62-64 are immovably attached to the casing 2 and the screen member 12. Also, in Young, dilution liquid is introduced through a conduit 68, but the conduit 68 is fixed to a pressure casing 2 and a screen member 12. In these references, the water supply passage member can not be moved toward and away from the screen.

Therefore, the features now added into claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested in the cited references. Claims 1 and 2 are not anticipated by the cited references.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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